



# Report Dead Birds

San Diego County residents play an important role in helping the County's Vector Control Program monitor the spread of West Nile virus by reporting dead birds. Dead birds are one of the earliest warning-signs that West Nile Virus has arrived in an area.

West Nile virus is primarily a bird disease. When mosquitoes feed on infected birds they can ingest the virus and then spread it to other animals, including humans. However, not all mosquitoes or all birds are infected with the virus.



West Nile virus does not affect all birds the same way. Some birds can survive with the virus and continue spreading it. Other birds, such as those in the Corvid family including crows, ravens, and blue jays, are especially susceptible to the virus and often do not survive.

## Dead Bird Reporting Criteria:

1. The bird must be dead for less than 24 hours. After 24 hours, the virus is not detectable.
2. The bird should not have a foul odor
3. The bird should not be covered with ants or flies
4. The bird should not be stiff
5. The bird should not be damaged by predators or cars.



If you find a dead bird that meets all the above reporting criteria, please report it to the **County Vector Control Program at (888) 551-INFO (4636)**. Vector Control Staff will come and pick up the bird to send it for testing. There is no risk of getting the West Nile virus from touching a dead bird, but for your protection, do not handle the bird.

Please support the County's efforts in "Fighting the Bite" by reporting dead birds and preventing the spread of West Nile Virus!